

North Korea vs. the World

Choose the best answer for each of the following questions. For the analysis section, refer to the article as needed.

CHECK COMPREHENSION

1. Recently, Kim Jong Un said that North Korea was planning to
 - a test its first nuclear bomb.
 - b test a missile that could reach the U.S.
 - c improve relations with other world nations.
 - d stop trading with China.
2. When was the Korean Peninsula first divided into two zones?
 - a in 1910, at the start of the Japanese occupation
 - b in 1945, just after World War II ended
 - c in 1950, during the Korean War
 - d in 2011, when Kim Jong Un came to power
3. Based on the article, which is true of North Korea's economy?
 - a It has been growing significantly over the past five years.
 - b It is based on exports of high-tech consumer goods.
 - c It is completely run by the government.
 - d all of the above
4. According to the article, North Korea has one of the world's
 - a most repressive governments.
 - b largest armies.
 - c newest nuclear weapons programs.
 - d all of the above

ANALYZE THE TEXT

5. In the section "The 38th Parallel," the author emphasizes
 - a North Korea's staggering decline since Kim Jong Un came to power.
 - b the stark differences between North Korea and South Korea.
 - c North Korea's nuclear program.
 - d how thousands of people escape from North Korea.
6. Which inference can you make from the article?
 - a Despite Kim Jong Un's claims, North Korea probably does not have nuclear weapons.
 - b North Korea imports most of its goods from South Korea.
 - c North Korea is a significant threat to China.
 - d Kim Jong Un has done little to modernize North Korea.
7. Which detail from the article best supports the answer to question 6?
 - a "Elaborate military parades often take place in the capital, Pyongyang, as a show of strength."
 - b "Many homes lack indoor plumbing and rely on fireplaces for heat."
 - c "A 2014 U.N. report estimated that up to 120,000 political prisoners are kept in four crowded camps."
 - d "[South Korea is] also a major exporter of cars and electronics ..."
8. As used in the article, *sanctions* most nearly means
 - a punishments.
 - b approvals.
 - c finances.
 - d systems.

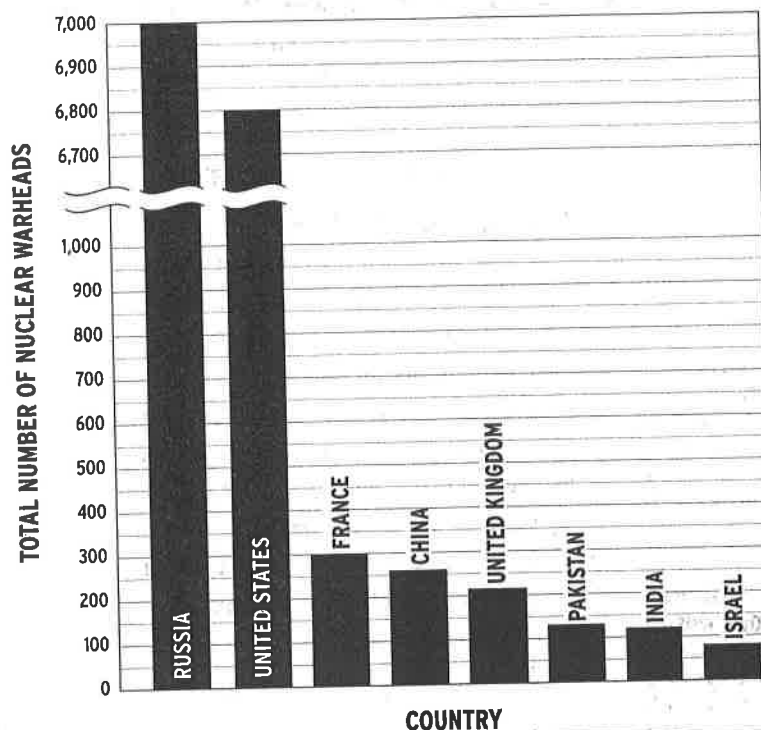
IN-DEPTH QUESTIONS Please use the other side of this paper for your responses.

9. How have the U.S. and the United Nations responded to the threat posed by North Korea? Do you think these steps will be enough? Explain.
10. What are some ways that the government of North Korea controls the people of that nation?

Nuclear Nations

On July 16, 1945, the U.S. conducted the world's first successful test of an atomic bomb, in the New Mexico desert. A few weeks later, it dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to force an end to World War II. In the decades that followed, the U.S. and the Soviet Union (which included modern-day Russia) became locked in a nuclear arms race, and other nations rushed to build their own arsenals. Today, nine nations possess nuclear weapons, according to the Federation of American Scientists (FAS). North Korea is a member of that "nuclear club," but very little is known about its arsenal. The nation has conducted five nuclear tests since 2006, but experts are unsure just how many nuclear bombs it has or whether it has made warheads small enough to fit on a missile for deployment.

This graph shows the estimated arsenals of eight nations believed to have nuclear weapons. Of this group, only Israel has not confirmed that it has such weapons. North Korea is not shown because very little is known about its nuclear program.



SOURCE: FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SCIENTISTS (JANUARY 2017 ESTIMATES)

ANALYZE THE GRAPH

1. The FAS believes that China has about __ nuclear warheads.

- a 200
- b 240
- c 260
- d 300

2. You can infer that the wavy lines on the graph signal that __.

- a the numbers are rounded
- b there's a jump in numbers on the axis
- c the totals are unreliable
- d the totals are decreasing over time

3. Which country has almost as many nuclear warheads as Pakistan?

- a India
- b Israel
- c China
- d United Kingdom

4. Today, the U.S. has about __ fewer nuclear warheads than Russia does.

- a 800
- b 600
- c 400
- d 200

5. Based on this graph, Russia and the U.S. together have about __ percent of the world's nuclear warheads (excluding North Korea).

- a 99
- b 93
- c 82
- d 75

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

6. Nuclear nations have been pressured by non-nuclear nations to reduce their nuclear stockpiles. Do you think they have an obligation to do so? Explain your answer.
7. Most of the countries on the graph developed their nuclear weapons many decades ago. Why do you think arms programs leveled off? Why are many people alarmed that North Korea is testing nukes in the 21st century?